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DOWRIES FOR DAUGHTERS.

WELL-KNOWN LADIES INTERVIEWED ON MARRIAGE PORTIONS.

Mrs. Sherman Says Rich Men Should Make Their Daughters Independent—How One Count Got \$10,000 a Year Out of an Ohio Millionaire—Lucy Hooper's Advice on the Subject—Mrs. Wanamaker Favors Dots, But Mrs. Noble Says They Are the Relics of Barbarism—Mrs. Carlisle on Happy Marriages—Mrs. Senator Carey Discusses the Situation from the Wyoming Standpoint, and Tells the Advantages of the Wild and Woolly West as to Women's Rights.

Should American girls have dowries? Should we settle a portion upon our daughters at marriage? These questions I have asked of some of our most noted society ladies during the past week, and I find their answers interesting in the extreme. I first called upon Mrs. Senator John Sherman. She said: "I am in favor of dowries for our daughters, though I do not think the matter should be a compulsory one, as it is in France. I believe, however, that both husband and wife are all the happier from the possession of means of their own, and every parent who values his daughter's best happiness will not hesitate to endow her upon the event of her marriage. I have often expressed this sentiment in our family, and I believe that no father, should he possess sufficient means, is justified in placing his child in a position where she will be entirely dependent upon the whims of another. It is a wise regulation of the French government to provide by the settlement of a marriage portion for the permanent support of the wife, so that she can never be left in want, no matter how improvident the husband may be."

HOW ONE COUNT GOT \$10,000 A YEAR. "Nevertheless, I know," continued Mrs. Sherman, "of any number of instances in which the system has proved rather disastrous. You may probably have heard of the marriage of Miss Gordon, of Cleveland, Ohio, and Count Villain, of Belgium. The affair created quite a sensation at the time, as Miss Gordon was a beautiful girl and the only child of a millionaire, who violently opposed his daughter's wedding a foreigner. The parents opposed the match for a while and made every effort to draw their child out of the way of temptation. The lover, however, was not to be thwarted, and when the affair became unavoidable the parents determined to make the best of it. A meeting was arranged with the lover for the purpose of signing the settlements, and when the preliminaries were being discussed the amount of the 'dot' became a subject of considerable controversy. At length the father asked what money the Count's family intended to bestow upon him. This question rather staggered the young man, who hastened to explain that no such custom prevailed in his country so far as his country was concerned."

"Very well, then," added Mr. Gordon, "unless you can show an equal amount, either in money or lands, you cannot have my daughter." "After considerable cabling and much discussion the question was finally settled by the consent of the Count's father to transfer to his son property valued at one hundred thousand dollars. Not until then would the millionaire agree to the demand, and he immediately settled a life interest upon the young couple of ten thousand dollars a year, 10 per cent. of the amount conferred upon the groom. Three years afterward the wife died, and to-day the widower continues to receive the annual allowance agreed upon from his father-in-law, notwithstanding the fact of his second marriage. I might quote other instances of a similar character," Mrs. Sherman went on, "but they would all go to prove that foreigners seldom overlook the all-important 'dot' in a question of marriage with an American girl; no matter how fondly they may love the woman, and the subject is worthy of more serious consideration among those who have their children's lasting happiness to consider."

SHE LOVED ANOTHER. "You are doubtless familiar," continued Mrs. Sherman, "with Lucy Hooper's advice to her country women? In one of her letters written from abroad after her marriage she thus forcibly puts the case: 'My dear young American sisters, if you must have a pet purchase a spaniel, but never buy a French count.' Miss Hooper's father as Consul at Paris had many curious experiences brought to his notice in his official capacity, not the least original of which was the case of a young wife whose fancy had been enthralled, like many another American girl, by the glitter of a title. One day while seated at his desk he was interrupted by the entrance of a lady, who feelingly explained that her husband, a Frenchman, had informed her that by the laws of France, which require the presence of the resident foreign minister or at least the consul at the ceremony to insure the legality of the contract, their marriage did not hold good in his own country, and that in consequence of the absence of such a representative at the church she could no longer claim his allegiance as a husband. Sympathizing with the woman in her trying and questionable position, Mr. Hooper very gently explained that unfortunately there did exist such a law, and that he was powerless to help her. To his astonishment his visitor delightedly exclaimed, 'Then it is all true as he said, and I am free to marry whom I choose. I am so glad, for there is another whom I love very dearly.'"

MRS. POSTMASTER GENERAL WANAMAKER. Mrs. Wanamaker, wife of the Postmaster General, is a woman of culture and rare common sense, and having spent several years in foreign travel is fitted to express intelligent views on this subject. I called upon her one morning not long since and found her luxuriously ensconced in her pretty boudoir in the midst of her regular daily work of correspondence. She was answering dozens of private notes and letters of charitable appeals. She said: "I think that the question of bestowing a 'dot' or wedding portion should be entirely optional, not compulsory, as it is abroad. Such arrangements are in many instances productive



G. W. (Amazedly)—My! My! But the newspaper business has grown. I wonder if the country has kept pace with "The Sunday Herald."

of much evil and of considerable financial embarrassment. As an illustration of this I recall the case of a wealthy Frenchman, who had three wedded daughters upon each of whom he had bestowed a 'dot' far in excess of his private means. Two of his sons-in-law had been taken into partnership with him, and in consequence he had impoverished himself, when otherwise he would have been rich in this world's goods. Many American girls possess independent means, and their future is provided for without additional endowment. As to girls not so situated, I hardly think any man of means would care to permit his daughter to leave her home uncared for, and thereby place her in a position of comparative dependence."

MRS. SECRETARY NOBLE. Mrs. Noble says: "I do not like the idea of giving dowries. I think them degrading and a relic of a barbaric age. When the subject is looked at in its true light it degenerates into a mere question of 'barter.' Among Indian tribes the habit is always to pay down a bounty or purchase-money, either in lands or an equal value in beads, skins, or wampum, upon the choice of a bride from among the dusky daughters of the nation. If the maiden be well favored and possessed of superior attractions the money is paid over by the groom into the hands of the father, and the young girl becomes a wife with all the show and ceremony of early barbaric custom. Should the maid be ill-favored or devoid of personal charms a handsome sum is paid by the parent, as a bonus thrown in after the manner of a chromo, to equalize the bargain. "There is to me," Mrs. Noble went on, "something repulsive in the bare consideration of dowry-giving in a civilized community and in an age of Christian advancement. On the other hand, a father possessed of any means would be unreasonable to permit his child to enter into the matrimonial state empty-handed; more especially should the man of her choice be possessed of a moderate income and steady business habits. A fair start in life is the secret of a successful future, and many men are too often hampered in their youth by the burden of family expenses that cripple their best efforts at a time when a little discreet financial aid would set them aloft upon the sea of success with favorable winds to waft their bark. There is a wise clause in English jurisprudence that provides for the support of a wife from an endowment contained in the marriage settlement. Such a dot belongs unconditionally to the wife, and she can withhold it, notwithstanding the demands of the husband."

MRS. CARLISLE ON HAPPY MARRIAGES. Mrs. Carlisle expresses short but decided views in favor of the dowry. She said: "A woman should always possess means of her own if she expects to enjoy a perfectly congenial wedded life. Even the most generous of husbands often overlook the smaller needs of a household that form so important a factor in the general comfort and happiness, and very few women care to be constantly making petty

demands upon their husbands, preferring more often to go without a necessity rather than annoy a man by little importunities of this kind, until at length a lack of mutual confidence engenders misunderstandings that prove the beginning of serious estrangements. It is the same thing over again as that brought out in the allowance system, and if the wife possesses independent means the wheels of domestic machinery run smoothly forward without jar or hindrance. By all means give your daughters a wedding portion, should your fortune permit, and do not thrust her from the parental nest unsupplied with necessary protection from future want!"

MRS. SENATOR McPHERSON APPROVES OF THEM. Mrs. McPherson, wife of the Senator from New Jersey, has spent much of her life in foreign travel, and probably there are few corners of the world which at one time or another she has not visited. A woman of keen intelligence and considerable literary taste, she has made a careful study of the various customs and national peculiarities. I asked her whether she approved of the giving of dowries. "I do most emphatically," she answered. "For the sake of a woman's individual happiness, if for no other reason, it is a wise provision, and I believe that every parent who has his child's best welfare at heart would not neglect so important a duty. I mean, of course, in case he can afford to do so. Abroad the custom is universally observed, and a foreigner seldom, if ever, seeks an American wife from among those less blessed by fortune. The recent marriage of Miss Audenreid and Count Devonne, of France, is yet another instance of title allying with solid American gold. Every one, of course, knows that the Count was head over ears in love with his bride, but the main chance was not overlooked, and the dowry was satisfactorily settled in compliance with the French law before the contract was sealed at the altar. The amount of Miss Audenreid's income is variously estimated from four to eight thousand dollars, to which her mother has added a 'dot' of several thousand more out of her handsome fortune, that will in all probability revert eventually to her daughter."

MRS. SENATOR WOLCOTT DON'T APPROVE OF DOWRIES. Mrs. Wolcott, wife of the Senator from Colorado, was at first rather disinclined to express her views, as she had never seriously considered the question, but she soon warmed up to the subject in reply to one or two leading questions, and ardently espoused the opposite view. Mrs. Wolcott went on to explain that she considered domestic happiness better secured by total dependence on the part of the wife. She said: "In every male breast there lives a spark of latent chivalry that is sure to be called forth by the demand for protection on the part of the weaker vessel, and his manly pride is roused by the demand upon his rightful sovereignty over those who are dependent upon his strength, just as the very dependency

A FINE EXHIBITION.

The Works of Mr. Paul Putzki and His Pupils.

The studio of Mr. Paul Putzki, the artist, No. 1420 New York avenue, was thronged during the earlier days of the past week with admiring art enthusiasts, who came to view the beautiful display of water colors and china paintings, the works of the artist and his pupils. The walls and several tables were tastefully arranged with the paintings and chinaware. Chief among the commendable features of the exhibition was the collection of orchids sketched in water colors by Mr. Putzki from the rare plants in the White House Conservatory. These have admitted of an exquisite display of the artist's talent as a colorist, and he has preserved with minute skill the many delicate lines and shades for which this wonderful flower is famed. Another collection of the artist's deserving of special mention is a number of sketches that graphically depict the scenic beauty of Newfoundland, the result of his visit to that country last summer. Besides his own works those of his pupils are by no means lacking in merit, and show evidence of the efficiency of the instructor as well as painstaking endeavor on the part of his pupils. Prominent among the latter is Mrs. Harrison, wife of the President, who exhibits several pieces of her china painting, among them an orchid panel, panel of birds, tray trumpet flowers, and plates in Royal Worcester. Mrs. Scranton exhibited a salad set and plaque of red cherries; Mrs. Reese, Representative Harmer's daughter, Belleek vase of orchids, chocolate pitcher, Wisteria; Mrs. John B. Wight, vase Belleek morning-glories, tray of roses, and other pieces; Mrs. Moses, fine salad set; Mrs. Adey, several fine water colors; Mrs. Rathbone, peach fruit dish, salad dish, strawberries, cream and sugar bowl; Mrs. Bond, fruit set and several water colors; Miss Mulloy, chocolate pitcher of jessamine; Miss Grace Davis, salad set; Mrs. Dye, two vases and bread plate; Mrs. Skiles, brush and comb tray of roses, bon-bon box, fruit plate; Miss Lande's vase plumago; Miss Stevens, bread and milk set; Mrs. Lucas, water color, La France roses; Miss Moore, vase orchids, rose jar, and several fine pieces; Miss Swan, vase of chrysanthemums in Royal Worcester.

Mr. Putzki also exhibited an especially fine set of plates, on each of which is painted a scene from nature, both landscape and marine views, the entire set valued at \$300. Other pieces were a fruit set, decorated with various unique designs, and a beautiful flower jardiniere of orchids.

"Willis Peyton's Inheritance," a realistic Washington story, is for sale at all newsdealers, and the trade can be supplied at the Washington News Company.

—Headquarters for Edwin Clapp's fine shoes, National Hotel Shoe Store.

A MAGNIFICENT GIFT.

THE SITE FOR A WOMAN'S TEMPLE AT GLEN ECHO.

It Will Be a Grand Feature of the National Chautauqua Up the Potomac—Distinguished Women Thank the Donors.

All great projects, like great edifices, are built up from foundation-stone to dome block by block. It was a grand conception of great things to be that made the National Chautauqua of Glen Echo possible. Even its projectors, men and woman of wide experience, could not see how broad the field of work could be made until they had entered upon the actual field of their labors. With some the idea of a temple devoted to women's interests occurred from the start. It was to be a home on the grounds for all women's organizations, where they could hold meetings, see one another, and confer as to what would best redound to their honor and dignity.

On Thursday a large company of ladies, representative women, officers or delegates to the various women's organizations now in the city, went out to Glen Echo on the trolley or in carriages about noon. It was a wintry day, but not too cold to be enjoyable. Arriving on the grounds, a fine lunch was served, after which the gentlemen present—Messrs. Edward Baltzley, president of the board; Adam Pratt, vice president, and L. De F. Jennings, secretary—conducted the ladies out to a beautiful plot of ground that commanded a fine prospect of landscape and river, where Mr. Jennings read the following paper to the interested group:

"To the Woman's National Council:
The National Chautauqua of Glen Echo desires to extend to the women of America through you a site for an imposing Woman's Temple on the ground of the Association of Glen Echo, Maryland, as a National Home for the efforts of women in the cause of education and humanity.
CLARA BARTON,
President Woman's Executive Committee.
SARAH BIRCH JENNINGS, Secretary.
SARAH A. SPENCER,
President Woman's Board of Promotion.
R. and E. B. BALTZLEY,
EDWIN BALTZLEY,
President National Chautauqua.
ADAM J. PRATT, Vice President.
L. DE F. JENNINGS, Secretary.

Seldom has there been a gathering of women at the beginning of any movement that represented so many lines of work in the world as were grouped under the gray, sunless sky on Thursday. The press of the East and the West, the W. C. T. U. in both wings, clergymen, and women doctors each listened with responsive heart to the words conveying this handsome gift of land on which to erect a Woman's Temple—a rallying point for women, a center from which to disseminate culture, and a place for repose.

Miss Frances Willard responded to the donors of the gracious gift with warm words, pledging Illinois for funds to build and furnish an Illinois reception-room.

Mrs. Edwin Roby personally pledged Illinois for a memorial column and niche in which to place the bust of the most popular woman in America—Clara Barton, president of the Woman's Executive Committee.

Mrs. M. Louise Thomas, treasurer of the Triennial Woman's Council, on being called for, returned thanks in felicitous terms to the donors in the name of the United States, especially those of the Woman's Council and those organizations of women connected with it as fraternal delegates, to whom a Woman's Temple devoted to art, literature, and other educative interests meant so much.

Clara Barton, president of the Woman's Executive Committee, spoke with feeling of the significance of such a gift to woman and of her pride in being identified with it. Miss West, editor of the *Union Signal*, and president of the Illinois Woman's Press Association, gave a strong word of approval.

Mrs. Lydia Tilton thanked God and the association for making the gift the beginning of a perennial blessing, an aid to cultured womanhood.

Mrs. Sallie Chapin, of South Carolina, pledged the cooperation of the women of the South. If the design for the temple was to be as Miss Willard had outlined—a reception-room for every State in the Union, with a memorial column and a grand auditorium for business.

Ladies from Massachusetts, New Jersey, and other States gave pledges of aid in rearing the Woman's Temple from their respective States.

Miss Willard then proposed that all join in singing "America" and "Blessed Be the Tie that Binds," after which the Rev. Anna Shaw invoked the divine blessing upon the place, and all engaged in the endeavor to rear not only a material but a spiritual temple, dedicated to the culture and development of true womanhood.

It was thus that one of the most important educational enterprises of the National Chautauqua of Glen Echo was consecrated. The exercises closed by singing "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow."

A photograph of those participating in this historical event was taken in a group. Others present were Mrs. Sarah Spencer, Mrs. Frances S. Osborn, of Chicago; Mrs. Maj. J. W. Powell, Mrs. J. W. Dean, of Chicago; Miss West, of Chicago; Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Pine, Dr. Hubbell, Marie Stevenson, Mamie E. Arcan, Mrs. D. Finkham, Mrs. T. W. Johnson, Miss Flora Vining, auditor of the New England Woman's Press Association; Mrs. Sarah F. Downs, of New Jersey; Mrs. Shrope, mother of Mrs. Ole Bull; Mrs. S. B. Jennings, secretary of the Woman's Committee, and Mrs. Emily L. Sherwood, corresponding secretary.

After these interesting exercises were closed the vehicles were again entered and the guests of the day driven over the grounds to the amphitheatre and Hall of Philosophy, where workmen are rapidly erecting the buildings for educational purposes. Every one was impressed with the progress made in so short a time. The Doubting Thomases, if there were any in the party, did not have courage to make themselves known. The programme for the June "assembly" is already made out, and men and women of national reputation in their many lines of educative work are engaged.

A few more weeks and these heights of Chautauqua will be clothed in all the beauty of the awakening spring, and then progress can be still more swiftly pushed to completion. A Woman's Temple as contemplated may not be completed by June, but no doubt something will stand for it on the beautiful spot donated for that purpose.